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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Thailand

DATE DISTR. 14 August 1951

SUBJECT The Ratapaharn

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The Ratapaharn<sup>1</sup> is identified with the military group which staged the successful coup d'etat in November 1947, expelling Premier Pridi Phanomyong and his followers, thus clearing the way for Phibun Songgram's return to power. Ratapaharn means "overthrow of the State by force" and the aim of the military clique which has adopted that name is to establish a permanent ascendancy over the 1932 Coup clique, which was responsible for Phibun's original rise to power, and over other real or potential political factions.

2. Members of the Ratapaharn who hold high rank and important commands in the Thai Army are as follows:

General Phin Chunhawan

Commander-in-Chief of the Thai Army

Lt. Gen. Det Detpradiyuth

Deputy Commander-in-Chief

Lt. Gen. Sarit Thanarat

Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief  
and Acting Commanding General of  
the 1 Army

Maj. Gen. Phanom Kitchakorn<sup>2</sup>

Commanding 1 Division, 1 Army

Col. Prapat Charustien

Deputy Commander of 1 Division,  
1 Army and commanding officer of  
1 Infantry Regiment of same command

Lt. Gen. Luang Sawat Soryuth

Commanding the 2 Army

Maj. Gen. Chalerm Suwanavisuth

Commanding 4 Division, 3 Army

Maj. Gen. Sawai Saenyakorn

Signal Inspector General

Maj. Gen. Luang Kampanat Saenyakorn

Commandant, King Chulalongkorn  
Military College.

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Col. Prasert Ruchirawong	Commanding Anti-Aircraft Artillery Department
Col. Krit Punakan	Commanding Tank Regiment
Lt. Col. Chit Sunthanond	Deputy Commander, Tank Regiment
Col. Siri Siriyothin	Commanding Army Transportation Department
Col. Tri Busayakanit	Commanding Army Welfare Department
Maj. Gen. Prung Rangsiyanond	Deputy Commander, Army Supply Department

3. Members of the Ratanapaharn from other services are Rear Admiral Chamnan Athayet, newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Fleet, Boonchu Chaterubet, commanding officer of the Ground Component of the Royal Thai Air Force, Chalermkiat Nathanangkula, Group Commander of the Spitfire Unit, RTAF, and a former naval officer who is now the director of the Transportation Department of the Ministry of Commerce.<sup>3</sup>
4. The drive of the Ratanapaharn to gain control is clearly indicated in three of its most recent activities, as follows:
- a. Following a meeting of Lt. Gen Phao Sriyanon, Gen. Phin Chunhawan, Lt. Gen. Sarit Thanarat, and Air Marshal Fuen Ronnapakas late in July, General Luang Harn Songgram<sup>1</sup> carried to Phibun a motion calling for the execution of nine admirals now under arrest in order to forestall possible opposition on the part of the Navy in future. The Premier objected to such an act on the ground that it would cause unfavorable repercussions abroad.
  - b. Government approval is being sought for giving the Police control over all investigations and authority over civil district officers.
  - c. The Ratanapaharn is laying plans to compete in the next election in the hope of building up strong, if not major parliamentary support.<sup>5</sup>

1. [REDACTED] Comment. The Farmer-Labor Party [REDACTED] might be considered a political extension, rather than the core, of the Ratanapaharn.
2. [REDACTED] Comment. According to [REDACTED], Thanom left Thailand on 7 May 1951 with three other senior Thai Army officers to visit Europe and the United States. 25X1X
3. [REDACTED] Comment. Not identified.
4. [REDACTED] Comment. Secretary General of the committee appointed on 2 July 1951 by the Council of Ministers to work on the reorganization of the Navy.
5. [REDACTED]

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